



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on

Wednesday 5th December 2018

at the Natal Canoe Club in Mc Alister Drive

1. Attendance and Apologies

See attached list.

2. Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman, Dave Still welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Minutes of the 2017 AGM were distributed and proposed for adoption by Dave Still and seconded by Trevor Gorven.

3. Chairman's Report – David Still

The Chairman reconfirmed the DUCT Mission and the 8 core focus areas.

He likened DUCT's modus operandi to the characteristics of the following four animals:

- Bee: we cross-pollinate ideas and information between organisations;
- Mule: we stubbornly insist that government fulfils its constitutional and legal obligations with regard to the environment;
- Owl: we provide ready access to a network of some of the best river health and environmental scientists in South Africa;
- Guinea-pig: we are willing to try out new ideas in the field rather than just talk endlessly about what should be done.

Staff changes in 2018:

We said farewell to Richard Clacey, Pandora Long, Bart Fokkens and Sue Walker. And after years of dedicated service to DUCT, we had to bid farewell to Jane Bain who retired at the end of September 2018.

DUCT welcomed the following new staff: Faye Brownell as General Manager, Lurette Schultz as Admin Manager, and Phakamani Dlamini, Ayanda Khambule and Dennis Mncwabe as Senior Supervisors.

2018 Highlights:

- Recruitment of good people
- Diversification of DUCT income streams
- Recognition of DUCT's work and potential
- Significant multi-year contracts signed or nearly signed

2018 Low-Lights

- Delayed start of new contracts - causing layoffs and financial stress
- Water quality remains poor – Msunduzi Local Municipality’s capacity for sewer maintenance has gone backwards in the last few years
- Mark Graham’s health challenges

Challenges during the 2018 year

- DUCT has incurred a deficit surplus for the past 2 years
- Our assets now mostly comprise the property and moveable items – we are short of working capital, necessitating a loan for the next 6 months.

2018/19 Challenges – remain much the same as in 2018

- Build systems for people and project management
- Improve DUCT’s finances
- Impact solid waste pollution at a strategic level
- Impact Duzi water quality
- Tackle illegal sand mining

4. DUCT General Manager’s Report – Faye Brownell

The DUCT role in the catchment

- Action on the ground
- Community engagement
- Partnering with government to help them fulfil their mandate
- Building river health ambassadors by providing basic employment alongside education
- Highlighting both the dire straits we are in, as well as the successes that are being realised

Projects

2018 Began with a very strong project pipeline. The previous General Manager and others had done a great job securing funding.

When Faye started in April, there were three projects scheduled to begin on her first day of work. Unfortunately, this did not happen, and the year has been characterised by delays.

A brief timeline of the project delays was detailed as below:

Umgeni Water a 5-year project was slightly delayed, and only started in April as opposed to February.

The WRC project began on time in April 2018.

The DEA LUI and Capacity Building projects did not begin as planned in April, after months of delays and some very serious communications with Head Office in CT, the DEA Alien Clearing project finally began at the end of September.

The DEA Capacity Building Project, however, is unfortunately still delayed due to AG queries at a national level, bringing the entire programme to a halt.

The Msunduzi Sewer Monitoring phase 1 ended in June, and should have moved seamlessly to phase 2 in July. However, delays with Council resolution have resulted in DUCT only signing the contract in the first week of December and therefore will really only be able to start in January 2019.

And the uMgungundlovu project that should have started in 2017 has been delayed repeatedly due to local politics. DUCT got the final go ahead with the 7th iteration of the proposal, which has been awaiting the MMs signature for the past month.

Mpophomeni – “Save Midmar”

- 3 Year project that ended in September 2018
- 20 Enviro Champs
- UMDM uMngeni Ecological Infrastructure Partnership demonstration project

A 4-minute video clip summarising the Mpophomeni project and highlighting its impact was shown.

The Enviro Champs not only have a heart-warming story of change to tell, but have also made a clear difference in the problem of surcharging sewers in Mpophomeni. A graph showed how from 2012 to 2014 they gradually increased the number of manholes being monitored. Then, through the UEIP demonstration project, the number of manholes increased to 70, covering almost the entire Mpophomeni. The monitoring and reporting the surcharges to the uMngeni Municipality showed significant results over the three years, with only 22 reported in 2018, down from nearly 180 in 2015. In 2018 the team had more than one month where NO spillages occurred.

However, the irony is that the funding ended in September 2018, and the uMDM have not yet been able to allocate funding to continue the programme. Umgeni Water have recognised the benefit of this programme however, and have made R350 000 available to continue just the monitoring and reporting of the surcharges. We are in the process of finalising how best to stretch that funding. It must be said that the Enviro Champs believe so much in what they do, that they have indicated a willingness to keep reporting the surcharges with minimal compensation for airtime costs only. This is a testament to genuine change that has occurred in these folks' lives.

DEA Alien Clearing

- 17 x Supervisors/contractors
- 22 x Brush cutters/ Chainsaw operators
- 22 x First aiders & Health and Safety Reps
- 126 x Herbicide applicators
- On the ground for two months, 10 teams of 11
- The aim for year 1 is to clear nearly 4000 ha

Umgeni Water Darvill

- Clearing and rehabilitation of 7,3km from Woodhouse road to Grimthorpe Bridge
- 10 youth employed
- Aim for a 5-year strategy to start a green SMME
- 656 waste bags have been collected so far
- 222 houses have been visited through Door-to-Door
- Partnerships Co-operation: UKZN; Zilimele (Sobantu based)

IDT

- 180 Staff members – working with various volunteer supervisors and other organisations
- Very limited budget covering labour ONLY
- The lack of PPE and transport allocations on the project
- Ends in February 2019
- Phase 4 of the IDT programme will be advertised soon
- Will only tender if as co-funding for another project, as it is not financially sustainable

WRC – upscaling Community Based Water Quality Management

- Working with several partners: GroundTruth, Jim Taylor, Mike Ward, and Rhodes University
- Learning from what has worked in Citizen Science projects
- Scaling deeper and broader
- Purpose is to catalyse funding for scaling

Msunduzi Sewer Monitoring

- Completed Phase 1 in June
- About to start Phase 2 in January 2019
- Budget going forward has been reduced due to Msunduzi financial constraints
- Aim to find additional funding for the monitoring aspect
- Also submitting proposals to expand and improve the technology used.

This has been running for 3 years, and is about to start phase 2 after a 5 month break between the phases. The General Manager used the opportunity to salute the 4 sewer monitors that continued to cycle and walk their routes for the 5-month break, for merely R200 airtime a month. They asked to please do this, as they did not want to lose the ground that they have gained over the last 3 years. Like the Mpophomeni Enviro Champs, the impact these projects have had on the individuals involved is life changing.

A short video clip was shown of summarising the project and its impacts.

This was followed by an article in the Witness of 16 November titled “Duzi, The Dirtiest in Years”.

The GM stated that the newspaper article is not sensationalism. A graph of the e-coli levels from Umgeni Water showed the dire situation. What was most alarming was the massive spike in the last 3 years. And this is with DUCT’s work assisting the municipality.

The GM then posed that the hard question of “how are we REALLY doing?” must be asked in the face of these results.

The challenge is overwhelming at times. And the light at the end of the tunnel feels like a pin prick.

Faye impressed that none of us can give up. We have to keep our eyes up, and we have to shift our focus. It is time to engage people’s hearts.

Martin Luther King did not stand up in front of thousands and start a revolution by saying “I have a PLAN”.

Faye indicated that DUCT need to get through to everyone in the catchment the WHY, to give them a DREAM that they are willing to pursue.

Faye stated that there is a need to capture the hearts of the man on the street, the business leaders and the decision makers so that people put their money where their hearts are.

She stated the following as DUCT's Purpose:

DUCT has a dream - to enhance and protect the catchment

To open people's eyes - to the risks & rewards of a healthy environment

And see the value of water - so that they choose to be a part of the solution.

5. Treasurer's Report – Trevor Gorven

Trever thanked Colenbranders for their auditing services and advised that we received a qualified report in as much that they are unable to verify donations received as they are not present when they are received or present when the inventory is taken (this wording is standard for any NPO audit).

It was proposed by Dave Still that Colenbranders continue as our Auditors and seconded by Trevor Gorven and Sandile Ndawonde.

The delay in starting projects has resulted in a loss of R113 538 for 2018 compared to the overall loss of R66 814.00 in 2017. We understand the reasons for this and will be keeping a tight control of the finances going forward.

Our working capital has been reduced due to the purchase of the fixed property which is giving us a new beginning. We are however paying less towards the bond than we would have had to pay for rental of other premises. Deferred liabilities reflected in the financial statements are mostly project funds paid in advance for work not yet done and these funds are held in trust pending completion of the project.

General income is made up of donations, events such as Dusi Charity Batch, Midmar Mile and KwaZulu Natal Canoe Union levies collected from paddlers. Trevor requested John Oliver to pass on our gratitude to KNCU for their continued support. Many other donations of time, effort and expertise were received and our sincere thanks go to those people for their support.

Our Section 18A status has been re-instated and all and any donations are most welcome!

Gill Graaf stepped into the Financial Manager position and has tightened up on the accounting and procedures.

Trever thanked all staff, both in the office and in the field, for their commitment to DUCT during the year.

Acceptance of the Financial Statements for the year ended 28th February 2018 was proposed by Dave Still and seconded by John Oliver.

6. Election of Directors for 2017 -2020 term of Office

Graham Jewitt resigned as a Director as he is emigrating. DUCT wishes him all the best in his new quest.

The following Directors will continue for the remainder of the term:

David Allen Still

Trevor Richard Gorven

Philip Mark Graham

Elizabeth June Denise Taylor

Colin Stuart Everson

Kirsten Lee Oliver

Sandile Johannes Ndawonde

Nominations was received for 2 new Directors: Zamampofu Nompumelelo Siqalaba and Khuthalile Jester Mahlaba.

7. Introduction of Speaker

Dave Still introduced Kirsten Oliver whom is a DUCT Board member. Kirsten is a passionate environmentalist and renowned adventure race and travel Photographer. Her amazing photos taken during her extensive travels around the globe can be viewed on Instagram. Kirsten is also the Deputy Director of Conservation Programmes at Wildlands.

8. Guest Speaker – Kirsten Oliver

Kirsten gave an interesting and beautiful presentation titled “Stories through my lens”.

Through a picturesque journey across many different countries and ecosystems Kirsten highlighted some of the most evident environmental issues she encountered in her travels, and drew a comparison to the issues experienced in our local context. Re-enforcing the importance of conserving and enjoying our precious and unique catchment.

9. Chairman’s Award and Closure

The Chairman’s award went to Gill Graaf for her continued, tireless and passionate hard work on managing the DUCT finances. Dave thanked Gill for her for her dedication and tenacity in always ensuring the best outcome for all in the face of a challenging financial year.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

2018 AGM ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Zakhele Mdunge	Liz Taylor	Lethu Mahlaba	Mike Farley
Nomathemba Ntshangase	Luvuno Thandanani	Louis Magubane	Steve Collins
Dennis Mncwabe	Nomthandazi Sikhokhakhane	Malcolm Byres	Maria Collins
Ntuthuko Mthembu	Mlondi Cele	Sandile Ndawonde	Bart Fokkens
Sanele Vilakazi	John Oliver	Bugs van Heerden	Melanie Rood
Simphiwe Khumalo	Penny Wheeler	Doug Burden	Penny Rees
Portia Khumalo	Rod Bulman	Collin Burden	Ryan O'Connor
Trevor Gorven	Matthew Black	Dave Still	Graham Jewitt
Gordon Borain	Sue Walker	Larette Schultz	Kirsten Oliver
Ryan Brudvig	Jane Bain	Faye Brownell	Sphamandla Dlamini
Lee D'Eathe	Paolo Candotti	Gill Graaf	Sibusiso Ntinga
Graham Poole	Nick Swan	Sithembiso Sangweni	Cyprian Ntuli
Ian Bailey	Wendy Ngcobo	Bruce Baxter	Lucky Gumede
Sibusiso Nqayi	Ayanda Khambule	Easterboy Mkhize	Simphiwe Khumalo
Ntuthuko Mthembu	Sphumelele Ndlovu	Sipho Mtolo	Phakamani Dlamini
Alfred Zuma	Thabo Ntinga	Mandla Buthelezi	Hlengiwe Nxele
Menzi Zondi			

APOLOGIES

Rob Crankshaw

Stuart Beaumont